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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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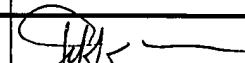
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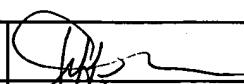
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name	ValueMiner, Inc.		
Signature			
Printed name	Jeff Eder		
Date	1/3/2005	Reg. No.	52,849

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature			
Typed or printed name	Jeff Eder	Date	1/3/2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. VM-23

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jeff S. EDER

Application No. 09/940,450

Group Art Unit: 3628

Filed: August 29, 2001

Examiner: Clement Graham

For: An automated method of and
system for identifying
measuring and enhancing
categories of value for a
value chain

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the enclosed Form PTO - 1449 and/or Substitute Form PTO - 1449 ("Form 1449") are submitted for consideration by the Examiner in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

The full consideration of the references in their entirety by the Examiner is respectfully requested and encouraged. Also, it is respectfully requested that the references be entered into the record of the present application and that the Examiner place his or her initials in the appropriate area on the enclosed Form 1449, thereby indicating the Examiner's consideration of each of the references.

The submission of the references listed on the Form 1449 is for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not a concession that the references listed thereon are prior art to the invention claimed in the patent application. The right is expressly reserved to establish an invention date earlier than the above-identified filing date in order to remove any reference submitted herewith as prior art should it be deemed appropriate to do so.

Further, the submission of the references is not to be taken as a concession that any reference represents art that is relevant or analogous to the claimed invention. Accordingly, the right to argue that any reference is not properly within the scope of prior art relevant to an examination of the claims in the above-identified application is also expressly reserved.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

within any one of the following time periods: (a) within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); (b) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 of an international application; (c) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or (d) before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

after (a), (b), (c) or (d) above, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and includes one of:

- the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below)
- or
- the fee of \$180 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

after the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below).

after the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, and on or before payment of the issue fee, and within thirty days of receiving each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement, and includes the Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d) (see "Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)" below), and the fee of \$180 as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) (see "Fees" below). NOTE.. This is for original applications except applications for a design patent filed on or after May 29, 2000, wherein a paper containing only an Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 is being filed.

Copies of the References

Copies of all of the references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

This patent application was filed after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of U.S. patents and patent applications that are listed on the accompanying Form 1449 are not enclosed herewith (see Official Gazette Notice of August 5, 2003). Copies of other references identified on the accompanying Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

Attached to each reference not in the English language is a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3). An English-language equivalent/patent, or an English-language abstract, or an English-language version of the search report or action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of

relevance found by the foreign office is being submitted in lieu of a concise explanation of the relevance pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3).

A copy of the foreign search report is enclosed herewith.

The references listed on the enclosed Form 1449 were previously identified in the parent application(s) of the present application, and copies of the references were furnished at that time. Accordingly, additional copies of the references are not submitted herewith, so as not to burden the file with duplicate copies of references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to carefully review the references in accordance with the requirements set out in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(d), the details of the parent application(s) relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 USC 120 in which copies of the references were previously furnished are set out below:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		Status (check one)		
U.S. APPLICATIONS	U.S. Filing Date	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
1. 08/999,245	12/10/1997		X	
2.				
3.				

Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

The undersigned hereby states that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign patent application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Fees

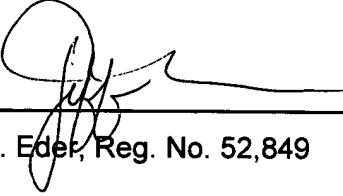
No fee is owed by the applicant(s).

The IDS Fee of \$180 under 37 CFR I. I 7(p) is enclosed herewith.

The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the instant application with the information disclosure statement attached herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

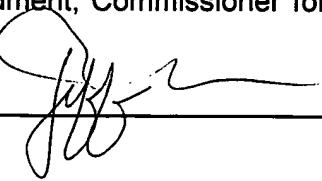
Date: 1/3/2005

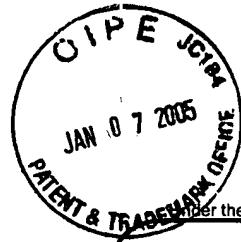

Jeff S. Eder, Reg. No. 52,849

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete If Known

Application Number	09/940,450
Filing Date	8/29/2001
First Named Inventor	Jeff S. Eder
Art Unit	3628
Examiner Name	Clement Graham
Sheet	of
	Attorney Docket Number
	VM - 23

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		KOLLER, TIMOTHY, "What is value based management", McKinsey Quarterly, 1994, Number 3	
		BROWN, CAROL; COAKLEY, JAMES; PHILLIPS, MARY ELLEN, "Neural Networks Enter World of Mgmt Accounting,	
		BIELINSKI, DANIEL, "How to sort out the premium drivers of post deal value", Mergers & Acquisitions,	
		BERGSTROM, PETER; KIMBER ELIOT, "Formal data models for SGML and HyTime", SGML, March 1999, electrum	
		HAROLD, ELLIOTTE, XML Bible, IDG Books, 1999	
		KNIGHT, JAMES, Value Based Management, McGraw Hill, 1998	
		NeuroSolutions, Application Summaries	
		COPELAND, TOM, KOLLER, TIM, MURRIN, JACK, Valuation, John Wiley and Sons, 1994	
		BROWN, CAROLYN, PHILLIPS, MARY ELLEN, Expert Systems for Management Accounting Tasks, IMA Foundation	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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